

House Resolution 2123

By: Representative Dempsey of the 13th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Willis Potts; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Willis Potts is the recipient of a Heart of the Community award sponsored by
3 the Redmond Regional Medical Center and produced by the Heart of the Community Board
4 of Governors; and

5 WHEREAS, since he was a young man, Willis Potts has embraced the notion of
6 volunteerism as a challenge; and

7 WHEREAS, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering from
8 Georgia Institute of Technology, graduating with honors and also completed the University
9 of Virginia's executive program; and

10 WHEREAS, starting his career in 1969 with Union Camp Corporation's Savannah Pulp and
11 Paper Mill, he held operational and management positions and was appointed General
12 Manager and Senior Vice President in 1992. In 1999, Mr. Potts relocated to Rome taking the
13 position of Vice President and General Manager with Temple Inland; and

14 WHEREAS, in every post, he has acted on his belief that industry should be a good corporate
15 citizen and develop community relationships. Prior to coming to Rome, he was involved with
16 the United Way, the Boy Scouts who awarded him the Beaver Leadership Medal, and the
17 Boys and Girls Clubs in Savannah and Alabama. He is past chairman of the Auburn
18 University Pulp and Paper Foundation and previously served as trustee of Armstrong Atlantic
19 State University; and

20 WHEREAS, at Temple Inland, he worked on improving safety and securing water and air
21 permits that would assure the continued operation of the mill, a major employer in Floyd
22 County and he sought community input through Temple Inland's Community Advisory
23 Panel; and

1 WHEREAS, very active in the United Way of Rome/Floyd County, he served several terms
2 on the board of directors and was chairman of the Finance Committee; and

3 WHEREAS, Rome was lucky to have been the right place at the right time for Mr. Potts. He
4 has been a leader in this community's economic growth and development and in an array of
5 civic affairs as shown by his involvement with the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce
6 where he served as chairman in 2006, as chair of the Rome-Floyd Development Authority,
7 and most recently on the SPLOST committee; and

8 WHEREAS, as his volunteer efforts focused on children and education, he accepted the role
9 of chairman of the board of Rome-Floyd Communities in Schools (CIS), a mentoring and
10 dropout prevention program in the two school systems; and

11 WHEREAS, he gives a voice to the voiceless as part of his role on the board of the Open
12 Door Home and as a devoted scholar, he serves on the board of the Rome Area History
13 Museum and the Georgia Board of Regents; and

14 WHEREAS, as a member of the First Baptist church, he is a deacon, sings in the choir, and
15 drove a transfer truck full of bottled water and other supplies to Katrina victims; and

16 WHEREAS, a veteran of the U.S. Army in field artillery, Willis and his wife Glenda have
17 three sons, Stephen, Mel, and Brandon, and five grandchildren and he continues to look
18 toward the future—to his next great adventure in volunteerism.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the members of this body commend Willis Potts for his service to the community and wish
21 him many years of continuing good health and happiness.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Willis Potts.